

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

S E C R E T STATE 058193

NODIS

FOLLOWING IS REPEAT ATHENS 2211, SENT SECSTATE 10 MAR 76:

QUOTE S E C R E T ATHENS 2211

NODIS

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GR, CY

SUBJECT: GREEK REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON JULY 1974 CYPRUS COUP

REF: STATE 54266

1. THIS REQUEST FROM THE GOG SUGGESTS THAT CARAMANLIS MAY NOW BE CONSIDERING PROCEEDING WITH THE TRIAL AGAINST THE PERPETRATORS OF THE JULY 15, 1974 COUP AGAINST MAKARIOS, POSSIBLY BECAUSE OF PRESSURE FROM THE POLITICAL OPPOSITION AND MAKARIOS HIMSELF. HOWEVER, WE HAVE NOT SEEN ANY OTHER EVIDENCE IN SUPPORT OF THIS. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE OF COURSE THAT THE GOG IS GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF A PRE-TRIAL INVESTIGATION TO GAIN TIME AND WITHOUT HAVING DECIDED WHETHER TO PROCEED WITH A TRIAL.

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2. WHICHEVER HYPOTHESIS IS CORRECT, WE BELIEVE THAT BEFORE RESPONDING TO THE GREEK EMBASSY THE DEPARTMENT WILL WANT TO ASCERTAIN HOW THE GREEK GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO HANDLE INFORMATION, IF ANY, MADE AVAILABLE TO IT BY THE USG. FURTHERMORE, THE GREEK EMBASSY'S NOTE IS FAR FROM PRECISE IN ASKING US "TO FURNISH WHATEVER DATA AND INFORMATION" WE HAVE ABOUT THE COUP. AND THIS, WE THINK, SHOULD ALSO BE CLARIFIED.

2. OVER THE PAST YEAR AND A HALF OR SO SINCE JULY 1974, THERE HAS BEEN CONSIDERABLE PUBLICITY AND INFORMATION ABOUT THE U.S. ROLE, ALLEGED AND OTHERWISE, RELATING TO THE PRE-COUP PERIOD AND DURING AND AFTER THE COUP. MUCH OF THIS INFORMATION IS ATTRIBUTABLE TO INDIVIDUALS INVOLVED IN EVENTS RELATED TO THE COUP, PRIMARILY GREEKS ALTHOUGH INFORMATION ATTRIBUTED TO FORMER AMBASSADOR TASCA HAS ALSO APPEARED (ATHENS 1279).

3. IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE, WE CANNOT RULE OUT THE POSSIBILITY THAT THE PRINCIPAL DEFENDANT IN THE CASE, FORMER JUNTA STRONGMAN IOANNIDES, WILL TRY TO IMPLICATE THE U.S. IN DEFENDING HIMSELF. WE DO NOT KNOW BUT HE MAY EVEN TRY TO PRESENT DOCUMENTARY PROOF IN SUPPORT OF HIS DEFENSE EFFORTS.

4. THE ABOVE WOULD SEEM TO ARGUE THAT WE SHOULD MAKE INFORMATION AVAILABLE IN ORDER TO DEEP THE RECORD STRAIGHT AND WE BELIEVE IT WOULD BE IN OUR INTEREST TO BE RESPONSIVE IN ANY CASE. MOREOVER, THE GOG BELIEVES THAT WE HAVE INFORMATION ABOUT THE COUP THAT WOULD BE PERTINENT IN ANY TRIAL AND KNOWS THAT WE HAVE MADE INFORMATION AVAILABLE TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES WHICH INVESTIGATED U.S. INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES IN CONNECTION WITH IT. (AS DEPARTMENT IS AWARE, THE CYPRUS SECTION OF THE PIKE COMMITTEE REPORT APPEARED HERE LAST MONTH--ATHENS 1369--AND COMMUNIST INTERIOR AVGHI ALSO CARRIED IT ON MARCH 7.) IN ORDER TO COMMENT FURTHER ON THE GREEK EMBASSY REQUEST, HOWEVER, IT SEEMS TO US WE NEED TO (A) HAVE A CLEARER IDEA OF THE KIND OF "DATA AND INFORMATION" THE GOG IS ASKING FOR AND (B) KNOW HOW THE
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GOG PLANS TO HANDLE ANY INFORMATION WE MIGHT MAKE AVAILABLE.
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